

**KING**  
*The Truth*  
**JESUS**

**CHRIST CRUCIFIED**

*The Lamb*  
\*The Light  
The Alpha and the Omega  
**Immanuel**  
**THE WAY**

# MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2021

## GREETING

Leader: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

**People: and we loved darkness rather than light.**

## OPENING HYMN *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noon-tide heat,  
and the burden of the day.**

## OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

**Almighty God, graciously behold this your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing  
to be betrayed into the hands of sinners,  
and to suffer death upon the cross;**

**Who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## RECALLING THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

JESUS IS ARRESTED

JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES

PETER DENIES JESUS THE FIRST TIME

JESUS IS QUESTIONED BY THE HIGH PRIEST

PETER DENIES JESUS A THIRD TIME

JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE

PILATE QUESTIONS JESUS

THE PEOPLE DEMAND BARABBAS BE RELEASED

JESUS IS MOCKED AND BEATEN

THE PEOPLE DEMAND JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

THE CROSS OF JESUS

During this time of music, prayerfully consider the cost that Jesus paid for you as he  
hung on the cross.

SOLO

*Were You There*  
John McFadden, Soloist

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

THE SOLDIERS PART THE GARMENTS OF CHRIST

THE WOMEN BY THE CROSS

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

THE SOLDIERS PIERCE THE SIDE OF CHRIST

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

CLOSING OF THE BIBLE - Symbolizes the sealing of the tomb

DEPART IN SILENCE

## **Tenebrae Service**

The service of worship tonight is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows". Tonight we will experience only a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of His crucifixion.

One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. As it gets darker and darker we can reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus that evening.

Toward the end of the service, the Christ candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of Jesus' death (Matthew 27) and his resurrection (Matthew 28:2). At the moment of the earthquake, the temple veil was torn apart, making the Holy of Holies exposed to public view. This is understood to represent God's change toward us with direct access to God, no longer requiring the ceremonial acts of the priests for our forgiveness of sin.

The hidden candle is then restored to its place, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. By this single light we all depart this service in silence.

**You are invited to attend our  
Easter Services on  
Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 am  
11:00 am**